

Pigneys Wood

“In The Beginning”



It is now nearly 20 years since the first plantings took place in Pigneys Wood and much more progress has been made in the intervening period.

In October 1993 the North Norfolk Community Woodland Trust took possession of the 58 acre (23.5 hectare) site, purchased from a local landowner, and the planting of trees and shrubs commenced almost immediately the following month, November. It was carried out by scores of individuals drawn from the local community and followed a three year fundraising campaign by a group of people whose vision was to create a - “new community woodland in areas where woodland access is difficult”- for the benefit of the local populace. The site was bought for £85,000 and the funds raised came from a variety of sources which included, amongst many others, North Norfolk District Council, Norfolk County Council, the Countryside Trust, local businesses and private donations.



Since then some 20,000 trees of differing varieties have been planted and many infrastructural projects have been undertaken to facilitate access by the public and to benefit and encourage wildlife. These projects have, in the main, been funded by the National Lottery and carried out by local contractors, managed by trustees and volunteers. They have included the renovation of the ‘Old Barn’ and, recently, the upgrading of ‘easy access’ footpaths, building a new ‘track’ from the car park to the ‘Old Barn’, provision of a new scrape for migratory and wading birds, the installation of a dipping platform, improvements to the car park and picnic areas and restoring the wetland area adjacent to the North Walsham & Dil-

ham Canal. This latter project was completed in 2011/12 and is already proving popular with migratory and wading birds and is proving a very attractive feature of the wood for wildlife and public alike.

In addition we have created three signed walks for those interested in exploring the wood and its diversity, all are easy paced. Some of the trees on these routes have been tagged with a numbered disc which when used in conjunction with our ‘Tree Identification Guide’ will identify its species. These guides can be found in our leaflet dispensers in the wood or downloaded from our website. Dog walking is a very popular pastime and someone can be found exercising their pet at almost any time throughout the day. We frequently host special interest groups who enjoy using our facilities in the pursuit of their hobby.



These include local schools, scout groups, The Norfolk Bat Group, the Norfolk Fungus Study Group, the Norfolk Ramblers Group a Geocaching Group and a Moth Trapping Group (using non-lethal light traps) amongst others. Those interested in any of these activities and wishing to participate should refer to our 'Events Diary' or contact us for details. Those interested in using our facilities for an event of their own please make contact via our website. Schools and groups involving the young, in particular, are encouraged to do so but all groups, commercial and public, are welcome.



The aim of the Trust has been to create a recreational and educational facility for the community whilst, at the same time, preserving, protecting and encouraging the proliferation of wildlife and plants. These two objectives are not always easy to reconcile and at times conflicts can arise. There are very few areas where the public cannot go, indeed they are encouraged to roam at will, but the 'Reserve' is one area where access is restricted and entry is by authorisation only. The 'Reserve' can be found to the West of the 'Old Barn' and the 'Kingfisher Bank' and is secured by a fence and gates. There is a 'viewing point' for use by the public located to the south of the bank which overlooks this area. Dog walkers are also re-

quested to keep their pets on a lead in clearly signposted areas between March 1st and July 31st to avoid disturbing wildlife during the breeding season. These are the only restrictions in force and the public are requested to abide by them in the interests of nature conservation. We are a designated LNR (Local Nature Reserve) and are obliged to protect wildlife in the interests of, and benefit to, the whole community.

Major project work is, for the present, over but the facilities in place require continuous upkeep and for this we depend on volunteers to carry out routine maintenance on a regular basis. We cannot underestimate the value of volunteers and their importance to the continued success of this project and are always pleased to see new helpers. If you would like to join our group, please contact me on 01263 721 304 or go to our website, for further information. We usually work in the wood every alternate Saturday for 2/3 hours starting at 9.30 am. You will find the company enjoyable and entertaining and the work interesting and educational in delightful surroundings. All are welcome, including children, provided they are accompanied by a responsible adult.



We estimate the annual cost of maintaining Pigneys Wood is in the region of £3000 and we are dependent on grants, sponsorship and donations for this amount. If you would like to join our list of donors or sponsors please go to our website for further information on how your money will be spent and how you can make a donation. All contributions are gratefully received. We estimate that if every regular user of the wood donated just £5 per annum to its upkeep this would more than cover the annual cost for maintenance.

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